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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6193
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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, .AR
SUBJECT HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP THROUGH JUNE 16, 1978

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4466

PART I - NEW EVENT AND INDICATORS

1. THE WORLD CUP -----

THE WORLD CUP AND ARGENTINAS IMPROVING PROSPECTS
OF REACHING THE FINAL ROUND HAVE SWAMPED ALL POLITICAL,
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL QUESTIONS IN ARGENTINA. ARGENTINA,
FROM TAXI DRIVERS TO POLICE OFFICIALS, IS CLEARLY
ON ITS BEST BEHAVIOR.
TERRORISTS
INTERRUPTIONS IN THE WORLD CUP GAMES HAVE NOT MATERI-
ALIZED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO BRIEF CLANDESTINE
MONTONERO BROADCASTS BEAMED ON THE TELEVISION

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AUDIO CHANNEL IN LA PLATA, TWO LATE NIGHT FIRINGS
ON GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS WITH SOVIET ROCKET

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GRENADERS AND OTHER MINOR INCIDENTS.
THE PRESS AND THE ARGENTINE PUBLIC REFLECT
GREAT CONCERN REGARDING THE COUNTRY'S "IMAGE".
A PROPHYLACTIC NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE
"DISTORTED" ARGENTINE IMAGE IN THE WORLD PRESS
HAS BEEN FRONT AND CENTER IN THE ARGENTINE MEDIA
SINCE APRIL. BUT ALL OTHER PROBLEMS
HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY SHELVED AS THE NATION
CELEBRATES THE PROGRESS OF THE ARGENTINE NATIONAL
TEAM WITH THOUSANDS OF FLAGGED DRAPED VEHICLES
HONKING HORNS THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AND OTHER
THOUSANDS PARADING AND SNAKE DANCING IN THE
STREET, CHANTING AR-GEN-TINA. THERE IS NOW
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE TO CHEER ABOUT AND THE
FUTURE IS ONLY AS FAR AHEAD AS THE NEXT GAME
WITH PERU.

2. FRENCH HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHES ELICIT GOA REACTION -----

THE LEADERSHIP OF THE FRENCH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
PRESENT THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENCY A WRITTEN
INQUIRY REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCE AND DETENTION
OF 22 FRENCH NATIONALS IN ARGENTINA. ACCORDING
TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY, THE WRITTEN INQUIRY WAS AGREED
UPON BY THE FRENCH FOOTBALL TEAM AS A
COMPROMISE GESTURE INSTEAD OF AN OVERT PROTEST
DURING THE FRENCH-ARGENTINE FOOTBALL MATCH
LAST WEEK. LOCAL PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT
THE FRIENDS AND RELATIVES OF THE MISSING FRENCH
PERSONS WERE DISAPPOINTED WITH THE GOA'S REPLY
TO THE FOOTBALLERS' REQUEST FOR INFORMATION, AS
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IT REPEATED PREVIOUSLY KNOWN INFORMATION.
FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIALS (PROTECT) HAVE
INFORMED US THAT THERE IS GROWING PRESSURE ON
THE QUAI DE ORSAY AND ON THE FRENCH EMBASSY
HERE TO PROTEST THESE FRENCH DISAPPEARANCES
AND DETENTIONS. THE ARGENTINE PRESS HAS REPORTED
THAT ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE ANCHORENA
RECENTLY STATED ON FRENCH RADIO THAT THE TWO
DISAPPEARED FRENCH NUNS WERE "LINKED TO
SUBVERSION". THE FRENCH EMBASSY HERE REPORTEDLY
WAS "SHOCKED" AT ANCHORENA'S STATEMENT.
A PETITION SIGNED BY 2,337 FRENCH JOURNALISTS

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WAS SENT ON JUNE 9 TO PRESIDENT VIDELA SEEKING THE RELEASE OF 68 ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS AND RESTORATION OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. ACCORDING TO THE LOCAL PRESS, THE JOURNALISTS' MESSAGE DEMANDED A FULL INQUIRY INTO THE ASSASSINATION OF 31 ARGENTINE JOURNALISTS AND THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 40 OTHERS SINCE MAY 1976. THE ARGENTINE PRESS REPORTED A SILENT DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IN ARLES, FRANCE, PROTESTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. A FRENCH EMBASSY OFFICIAL TOLD US ON JUNE 15 THAT THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN REFUSING FRENCH CONSULAR OFFICIALS ACCESS TO DUAL NATIONAL EXECUTIVE DETAINEES. SUCH VISITS WERE PREVIOUSLY ROUTINE AND EASILY ARRANGED. THE FRENCH EMBASSY BELIEVES THIS STEP WAS TAKEN AS A REACTION TO FRENCH HUMAN RIGHTS PRESSURES.

3. ECONOMIC SUSPECTS BEING REMOVED FROM PEN

IN A CHANGE OF POLICY, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS BEGUN REMOVING PERSONS CHARGED WITH ECONOMIC CRIME FROM EXECUTIVE DETENTION (PEN) STATUS. IN

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RECENT ACTIONS REPORTED TO
US BY FAMILY MEMBERS AND LAWYERS OF PEN ECONOMIC
PRISONERS INDICATE THAT FOR
EXAMPLE, THE NUMBER OF ECONOMIC PEN DETAINEES
HELD IN BUENOS AIRES CASEROS PRISON HAS BEEN
REDUCED IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS FROM 25 TO 4.
DETAINEES HAVE EITHER BEEN INDICTED FOR ECONOMIC
CRIMES OR RELEASED. THE EMBASSY RECEIVED IN
JANUARY, 1978, AN UNVERIFIED REPORT THAT THERE
WERE 70 PEN PRISONERS BEING HELD FOR ECONOMIC
AS OPPOSED TO POLITICAL VIOLATIONS.

4. HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS AND THE MUNDIAL -----

ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS ARE TAKING
FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA OF A
LARGE NUMBER OF FOREIGN JOURNALISTS. INCREASING
NUMBERS OF MOTHERS ARE APPEARING EACH THURSDAY AT
THE PLAZA DE MAYO TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR CONCERNS
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REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THEIR RELATIVES.
ON JUNE 8 SEVERAL HUNDRED MOTHERS STAGED AN
UNPRECEDENTED MARCH DOWN CALLE FLORIDA, BUENOS
AIRES MAIN PEDESTRIAN MALL. A WEEK LATER
SCORES OF MOTHERS MARCHED IN THE RAIN AROUND
THE PLAZA DE MAYO. POLICE OFFICIALS REFUSED TO
INTERFERE WITH THE MARCH ACCORDING TO THE BA
HERALD WHEN URGED TO DO SO BY "OUTRAGED CITIZENS."
MEMBERS OF THE MOTHERS GROUP HAVE TOLD THE
EMBASSY THAT THEY HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INTERVIEWS
WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE
TELEVISION EXPOSURE--THE MOTHERS ARE PLEASED
THAT THEY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRESENT THEIR STORY
TO THE WORLD PRESS WITH NO INTERFERENCE FROM
THE ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. THE EMBASSY HAS
RECEIVED NO REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES OR HUNGER
STRIKES BY THE MOTHERS GROUP AS REPORTED TO
THE DEPARTMENT. (SEE STATE 153457.)
THE FAMILY MEMBERS OF MISSING PERSONS GROUP
SENT A LETTER AT THE OPENING OF THE WORLD CUP
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARGENTINE FOOTBALL SQUAD
ASKING FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE RELEASE OF
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND THE PUBLICATION OF AN
OFFICIAL LIST OF MISSING PERSONS.

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PERMANENT ASSEMBLY, LIGA AND MEDH ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN MEETING REGULARLY WITH FOREIGN JOURNALISTS TO PRESENT INFORMATION REGARDING THE ARGENTINE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

5. RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAMS ANNOUNCED -----

AT ALMOST THE SAME TIME AS THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON OF THE US' SOUTH AMERICAN REFUGEE/
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DETAINEE PAROLE PROGRAM THE EMBASSY WAS INFORMED OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMILAR CANADIAN AND WEST GERMAN RIGHT OF OPTION ENTRY PROGRAMS. THE CANADIAN PROGRAM IS FOR ONE HUNDRED DETAINEES; THE WEST GERMAN PROGRAM IS FOR 144 DETAINEES.

PART II - FOLLOW-UPS, UPDATES AND REVERBERATIONS

6. THE LIST OF 2500 DISAPPEARED

THE THREE PAGE LA PRENSA ADVERTISEMENT OF DISAPPEARED PERSONS IS STILL A MAJOR FOCUS OF ACTIVITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION. MINISTRY OF INTERIORS PUBLICATION ON JUNE 3 OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE WHEREABOUT OF 84 PERSONS ON THE LE PRENSA LIST WAS WELCOMED BY LOCAL HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS (HRO). THE SPONSORING GROUPS ARE NOW CHECKING THE MINISTRY OF INTERIORS INFORMATION ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS. THE HROS ARE CONTINUING TO RECEIVE ADDITIONAL REPORTS OF DISAPPEARANCES IN RESPONSE TO THE LA PRENSA AD. MOST OF THE CASES BEING REPORTED ACCORDING TO A PERMANENT ASSEMBLY-SOURCE, TOOK PLACE IN 1976 AND 1977. THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY HAS RECEIVED OVER 500 PREVIOUSLY UNREPORTED CASES TO DATE.

7. SAN JUSTO DISAPPEARANCES

ACCORDING TO INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE AP HERE FROM RESIDENTS OF HOUSING BLOCK NO 17 IN SAN JUSTO, FOUR OF THE MORE THAN 30 INDIVIDUALS ABDUCTED DURING SECURITY FORCE OPERATIONS ARE STILL MISSING. PERSONS STILL REPORTED MISSING INCLUDE ABEL DE LEON, ADOLFO BARBATAN, MR PATROUCH

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AND HIS GIRL FRIEND. FEDERAL POLICE, ACCORDING TO THE AP'S SOURCES, HAVE ADVISED THE FAMILIES OF THE ABDUCTE PARTIDO COMUNISTA REVOLUCIONARIO (PCR) ACTIVISTS THAT THEIR RELATIVES ARE IN JAIL AND ARE EXPECTED TO BE PLACED UNDER THE PEN. THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPORTED THAT THREE DOCTORS WORKING AT THE PCR SUPPORTED CLINIC - DR NOBERTO LIWSKI, DR FRANCISCO GARCIA FERNANDEZ AND DR GORGE EDUARDO HEUMAN WERE BEING HELD AT A BUENOS AIRES POLICE STATION AND HAD BEEN VISITED BY THEIR FAMILIES.

THE SP'S SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE STRING-OF DISAPPEARANCES WERE A GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO REPLACE THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT'S PCR AND PERONIST LEADERSHIP WITH GROUPS OR PERSONS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO THE GOVERNMENT. ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, A RETIRED ARMY OFFICER, WHO MOVED IN THE HOUSING COMPLEX A YEAR AGO, HAS JUST BEEN INSTALLED AS THE NEW COMMUNITY LEADER. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT

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CERTAIN SQUATTER FAMILIES WILL BE EXPELLED FROM THE COMMUNITY IN AN EFFORT TO "CHANGE THE CHARACTER OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD."

8. UPDATE ON CERAMIC WORKERS DISAPPEARANCES

A FORMER CERAMIC WORKER AT THE LOZADUR PLANT CALLED AT THE EMBASSY ON JUNE 14 AND PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING THE DISAPPEARANCES OF 19 CERAMIC WORKERS IN OCTOBER, 1977. SOURCE ALLEGED THAT SEVEN WORKERS WERE ABDUCTED FROM THE LOZADUR PLANT, FOUR FROM THE NEARBY CATTANO PLANT AND 8 OTHER WORKERS DISAPPEARED FROM A SMALLER FACTORY IN THE AREA. SOURCE SAID THAT DISAPPEARANCES WERE AN ATTEMPT BY EITHER ARMY OR PLANT MANAGEMENT OR BOTH TO ELIMINATE CERAMIC UNION LEFTIST LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, SOURCE STATED THAT PERSONS TAKEN FROM LOZADUR AND CATTANO WERE A VERY MIXED GROUP -- A NUMBER OF THE MISSING WERE NEITHER ACTIVISTS, NOR LEFTISTS. (SEE BUENOS AIRES 4582 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.)

9. DEUTSCH CASE UPDATE

THE DEUTSCH FAMILY HAS INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT IN EARLY JUNE, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR DIRECTOR FOR INTERNAL SECURITY, COL SAN ROMAN, CALLED MR DEUTSCH IN CORDOBA AND SUGGESTED THAT THE FAMILY SUBMIT A RIGHT OF OPTION PETITION FOR LILIANA DEUTSCH. THIS HAS BEEN DONE BASED ON THE EMBASSY RIGHT OF OPTION CERTIFICATE FOR LILIANA DEUTSCH WHICH HAD BEEN ISSUED PREVIOUSLY. ON JUNE 18, THE FEDERAL POLICE CAME TO THE DEUTSCH RESIDENCE IN CORDOBA PURSUANT

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TO OFFICIAL ORDERS TO AFFECT THE ARREST OF DANIEL DEUTSCH. THE DEUTSCH FAMILY EXPLAINED THAT DANIEL DEUTSCH WAS NO LONGER RESIDING IN ARGENTINA, HAVING DEPARTED FOR THE UNITED STATES. THE POLICE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

10. INTER-AMERICAN BANK LOANS -----

DR. GUILLERMO ZUBARAN, ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, STATED TO

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THE ARGENTINE PRESS ON JUNE 12 THAT EFFORTS AGAINST ARGENTINE LOAN REQUESTS IN THE INTERNATIONAL BANKS ARE "A PRODUCT OF A WELL-ORGANIZED CAMPAIGN BY TENDENTIOUS GROUPS THAT HAVE CONTACTS WITH ARGENTINE TERRORISTS." DR ZUBARAN EMPHASIZED THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABROAD ABOUT THE PEACE, SACRIFICES, AND EFFORTS THAT ARE BEING MADE TO RESTORE ARGENTINA. THE ARGENTINE REPRESENTATIVE ALSO REFERRED TO THE DIFFICULTIES FACING THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BECAUSE OF DELAYS IN THE PAYMENT OF THE UNITED STATES QUOTA TO THE BANK.

11. SMALL TOWN DISAPPEARANCES REPORTED -----

ON JUNE 13, AN ARGENTINE MINISTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN (PROTECT) TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT 72 PERSONS, INCLUDING HIS SONS, HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY SECURITY FORCES FROM THE SMALL (POP 30,000) CORDOBA RESORT TOWN OF COSQUIN OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. SOURCE REPORTED THAT ONLY ONE OF THE 72 ABDUCTED SINCE MARCH 1976 HAS RETURNED IN AN EMACIATED CONDITION FROM CAPTIVITY. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT THAT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REGARDING DISAPPEARANCES FROM THIS TOWN.
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